

Dear Reviewer:

I couldn't tell you where I'll be or who I'll be with this Saturday night. I could be out at the movies, I could be bowling, or I could simply be spending time in my silky pajamas at home.

Although my plans are quite indefinite, there is one thing that isn't. No matter where I am or who I'm with, I'll be glued to the television sharply at 11:30. Why is this so?

"Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!"

Ever since I can remember, I've been an avid fan of *Saturday Night Live*. From watching reruns of older shows starring John Belushi, to watching them live with Chris Parnell, "SNL night" has become somewhat of a ritual for me. Although most people watch the show simply for entertainment, I've become somewhat entranced with the whole process. Each cast member, writer, and producer for the show puts in tremendous amounts of time to in order make each sketch as terrific, memorable, and quote-worthy as possible.

But even great things can have terrible moments, and sometimes things don't always work out as you had expected. Not every SNL sketch has been quote-worthy, and not every joke created has been "milk-out-of-your-nose" hysterical. And regardless of who you are or what you've created, your work won't always be a masterpiece. Upon looking through old pieces written throughout my high school career, this concept became all too clear to me. Sure, several of my pieces were nicely written, but there were also horrendous papers constructed of jumbled words on paper. Needless to say, my work was cut out for me, but I was willing to welcome that work – I wanted

the best show that I could deliver to you, my reviewer and audience.

Despite positive thinking when receiving hard work in life, you will always have certain strengths and weaknesses. Maybe former SNL cast member Jimmy Fallon can't always keep a straight face when he's performing, but he plays a great Tom Cruise. I knew that transactive writing was my weakness. I wrote "Perceptions" within a matter of days, knowing exactly what I intended to deliver to the audience – a sensation of sympathy and understanding mixed in with a dash of irony. However, "Ionic, Covalent, or Metallic?: Differentiating Between Chemical Bonds" was an entirely different story. It was one of those sketches that I wasn't sure would make it on air, but after tedious amounts of work, it made it. While reading this piece, I hope that you walk away with more than a newfound appreciation of conductivity. This work exemplifies the art of knowledge through kinesthetic learning and trial-and-error.

When deciding which pieces to use for my portfolio, it was clear that "Youth Social *What Training?*" would undoubtedly make it straight to the show. I gathered all of my previous experiences, both from the trip and as a writer, and performed my best. My personal characteristics are spilled throughout this piece - a little comedic, a tad sarcastic, with a no tolerance policy for superficiality. I hope that you will laugh at this piece as much as I laughed at former SNL cast member Chris Farley impersonating Rush Limbaugh.

When doing impersonations or other various sketches, there is always a possibility that something can go wrong. However, this adds a certain element to the show. One of the best joys about watching SNL is knowing that what you are viewing is uncut and happening right then and

there. When you are live, *you are live*. If things go wrong, you have to work with what you have. You must make things better than they would have been if you hadn't made a mistake. When rereading "To CRON or not to CRON: Calorie Restriction Society", I had turned in the paper thinking that I had said my lines just right. Upon rereading this paper, I quickly realized that I had goofed. I improved grammatical structure, collected more information on cronies, and took out unnecessary sentences. After these changes, I knew that I had saved, and made, the show. Combining voice and opinion with research and data allowed the paper to reach it's highest potential.

Current cast member and head writer Tina Fey voiced her parent's opinion when she stated, "My parents have been very brave about my being here [New York], and I remember after the 11th [of September, 2001] thinking for sure they were going to say, 'Come home, come home.' Instead, my father gave me a speech about how important it was for me to be brave and stay in New York and keep working. That inspired me quite a bit." This portfolio presents how I've progressed as a writer thus far, and I will continue to keep working on my writing and remain inspired, much like Mrs. Fey. And after tedious amounts of rehearsing and constructive criticism from those behind the scenes, here I am live.

From Studio 8-H,

The SNL Fanatic

Dear Reviewer:

← Perhaps would seem more appropriate
as a personal essay without
"Dear Reviewer"

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Although my plans are quite indefinite, there is one thing that isn't. No matter where I am or who

I'm with, I'll be glued to the television sharply at 11:30. Why is this so? — focuses on
literacy experience
of viewing

"Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!"

engages audience

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of older shows starring John Belushi, to watching them live with Chris Parnell, "SNL night" has

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entertainment, I've become somewhat entranced with the whole process. Each cast member,

writer, and producer for the show puts in tremendous amounts of time to in order make each

sketch as terrific, memorable, and quote-worthy as possible.

details
suggest
audience
awareness

But even great things can have terrible moments, and sometimes things don't always work out as

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connections
to writing
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the best show that I could deliver to you, my reviewer and audience.

includes information/details to meet audiences' needs

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appropriate word choice

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comparison between writing development and SNL

former SNL cast member Chris Farley impersonating Rush Limbaugh.

Control of sentence structure - enhances meaning throughout

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connects this with CRDN piece

comparisons embedded throughout

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logical, coherent
organization
throughout

* purpose is authentic and insightful, yet some unelaborated ideas prevent this piece from maintaining that focused purpose throughout

more elaboration on writing growth and development is necessary throughout